

HCS HB 138 -- VIRTUAL EDUCATION

SPONSOR: Spencer

COMMITTEE ACTION: Voted "Do Pass with HCS" by the Standing Committee on Elementary and Secondary Education by a vote of 13 to 0. Voted "Do Pass" by the Committee on Rules- Administrative Oversight by a vote of 12 to 0.

This bill changes the Missouri Virtual Instruction Program (MOVIP) to "The Missouri Course Access Program" (MCAP) and allows any K-12 student to enroll in up to two MCAP courses per year, to be paid by the school district or charter school, if the student is a public school student and the course is approved by a school counselor or person designation by the school district or charter school. A student that is enrolled in the MCAP and does not meet the requirements for the costs to be paid by the district or charter school must pay the costs for any course directly to the MCAP.

The bill requires the State Board of Education to provide an easily accessible link for course vendors on the MCAP website, allows anyone to submit courses for approval, and requires vendors to accept monthly payments for students enrolled in their courses.

This bill requires the students' home district to pay the costs associated with MCAP courses up to the equivalent of a full time student, under specified conditions.

The bill has an effective date of January 1, 2018.

This bill is similar to HB 2123 (2016).

PROPONENTS: Supporters say that the bill offers more educational opportunities for Missouri students. This will allow students more chances to take classes they need or want to take. More choice for schools is more of a benefit than a hindrance.

Testifying for the bill were Representative Spencer; Missouri National Education Association; Mo Education Reform Council; Connections Academy; Missouri School Counselor Association; Foundation For Excellence In Education; School Administrators Coalition; Missouri Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Missouri Century Foundation; Missouri Catholic Conference; and Missouri School Board Association.

OPPONENTS: There was no opposition voiced to the committee.